

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 15, 18, 19 and 22 remain pending in the application.

In the Drawings

The drawings were objected under 37 CFR 1.83(a). In particular, the drawings allegedly fail to show every feature of the claims, i.e., the "vehicle ignition assembly" as recited by claim 18.

The Examiner is directed to the description of Fig. 1A and 1B, page 3, lines 9-12 that disclose the matching keyhole represents, e.g., an ignition of an automobile. Page 6 of the Applicants disclosure details the keyhole as item 177.

The Applicants respectfully request the objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 1-7, 9, 10, 12, 15, 18, 19 and 22 over Suyama in view of Fernandez

In the Office Action, claims 1-7, 9, 10, 12, 15, 18, 19 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Suyama et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,561,331 ("Suyama") in view of Fernandez et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,184,651 ("Fernandez"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 1-7, 9, 10, 12 and 15 recite a key chain rechargeable device that is adapted to be inductively recharged from an external power source when a key associated with a key securing structure is inserted in a lock device. Claim 18 recites an inductive charging coil placed proximate to a vehicle ignition assembly adapted to provide battery charging power to a key chain rechargeable device. Claims 19 and 22 recite inductive coupling a rechargeable battery of a key chain electronic device to an external power source associated with a lock device when a key is in the lock device.

The Examiner argues that the Examiner was not suggesting dual charging systems, but instead replacing the charging system of Suyama with the inductive charging system of Fernandez (Office Action, page 2). Moreover, the Examiner acknowledges that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the

references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 98 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). (Office Action page 3). With the Examiner relying on the teachings of the prior art, the motivation provided by the Examiner for modifying Suyama is that the modification would provide a user with the ability to recharge the rechargeable battery without having to work with a wired connection, not requiring a user to connect plugs, not requiring a user to locate a charging unit where it is plugged, providing a user with the ability to quickly grab-n-go a key securing structure that has been charged (Office Action, page 4).

The Examiner correctly acknowledges that the motivation to combine or modify the teachings of the prior art must come from the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. However, all of the motivation provided by the Examiner are general advantages of using an inductive system. Nothing in the references or provided by the Examiner provides motivation for modifying Suyama with a completely different type of charging system, i.e., changing out Suyama's contact charging system with an ignition contact charging system. As the vast majority of inventions are made up of existing components, the Applicants are applying inductive charging to a lock device and a vehicle ignition assembly, **NOT** suggested applications by the prior art.

The Examiner alleges that a feature that Applicants rely, i.e., a vehicle ignition assembly, is not recited in claims 1-12, 15, 19 and 22 (Office Action, page 3). The Applicants are not arguing a vehicle ignition assembly for claims 1-12, 15, 19 and 21. The Applicants argue a vehicle ignition assembly for claim 8. Applicants argue a lock device for claims 1-12, 15, 19 and 22.

Moreover, the Examiner alleges that the Applicants are arguing against the references individually. However, the Examiner responds to the Applicants arguments against combining the two references. The Examiner own response make the argument moot.

Moreover, the Examiner fails to even mention a significant disclosure in Suyama's charging system, i.e., that it relies on forces produced by physical connection of connectors used to charge the ignition key in keeping the ignition key and a remote unit coupled together (see col. 6, lines 44-49). Thus, Suyama teaches away from use of induction charging since the lack of contacts would be detrimental to holding the ignition key and the remote unit coupled together.

However, to more clearly distinguish over the cited prior art, claims 1-7, 9, 10, 15, 19 and 22 are amended herein to recite a key chain rechargeable device and key chain electronic device that are respectively distinct from a key inserted in a key securing structure and a key inserted in a lock device.

The Examiner alleges the combination of Suyama in view of Fernandez would result in a modification of Suyama to inductively charge the battery in the remote unit attached to the key (Office Action, page 7). Therefore, the Examiner would agree that Suyama in view of Fernandez would fail to disclose or suggest a key chain rechargeable device and key chain electronic device that are respectively distinct from a key inserted in a key securing structure and a key inserted in a lock device, as recited by claims 1-7, 9, 10, 15, 19 and 22.

An advantage of inductively charging a key chain rechargeable device and key chain electronic device that are respectively distinct from a key inserted in a key securing structure and a key inserted in a lock device is, e.g., the ability to charge devices that are commonly attached to a key chain. Many devices are commonly attached to a key chain such as, e.g., a pager, a cellular telephone, a penlight, an MP3 player, etc. The prior art's inductive charging field is only strong enough to charge a rechargeable device placed in almost direct contact with an inductive charger. The prior art fails to disclose or suggest use of an inductive charging field that is strong enough to charge a key chain device distinct from a key.

Accordingly, for at least all the above reasons, claims 1-7, 9, 10, 15, 19 and 22 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 8 over Suyama in view of Fernandez and Hansson

In the Office Action, claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Suyama in view of Fernandez, and further in view of Hansson, U.S. Patent No. 6,323,775 ("Hansson"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 8 is dependent on claim 1, and is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 8 recites a key chain rechargeable device that is distinct from a key inserted in a key securing structure and that is inductively recharged.

As discussed above, Suyama in view of Fernandez fails to disclose or suggest a key chain rechargeable device that is distinct from a key inserted in a key securing structure, as recited by claim 8.

The Office Action relies on Hansson to allegedly make up for the deficiencies in Suyama in view of Fernandez to arrive at the claimed invention. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Hansson appears to disclose an apparatus, system and method that notifies a user of a low battery condition when a remaining battery capacity of a portable electronic device falls below a predetermined level (Abstract). A location for charging the electronic device is monitored by using GPS, GSM short range radio interface, and Bluetooth (Hansson, Abstract).

Hansson is relied on to disclose notification of a low battery condition when in proximity of a charging unit. Hansson fails to even mention use of an inductive charging system, much less a key chain rechargeable device that is distinct from a key inserted in a key securing structure and that is inductively recharged, as recited by claim 8.

Neither Suyama nor Hansson, either alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest a key chain rechargeable device that is distinct from a

key inserted in a key securing structure and that is inductively recharged, as recited by claim 8.

Accordingly, for at least all the above reasons, claim 8 is patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 11 over Suyama in view of Fernandez and Holcomb

In the Office Action, claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Suyama in view of Holcomb et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,855,534 ("Holcomb"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 11 is dependent on claim 1, and is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 11 recites a key chain rechargeable device that is distinct from a key inserted in a key securing structure and that is inductively recharged, with the key chain rechargeable device being a penlight.

The Office Action correctly acknowledged that Suyama fails to disclose a key chain rechargeable device is a penlight device (Office Action, page 9). The Office Action relies on Holcomb to allegedly make up for the deficiencies in Suyama in view of Fernandez to arrive at the claimed invention. The Applicants respectfully disagrees.

Holcomb appears to disclose a method and apparatus for providing power to portable radio transmitters (Abstract). A special clip arrangement is build into the base of a transmitter itself for connection of a penlight cell (Holcomb, col. 1, lines 3-11).

Holcomb discloses use of small batteries, e.g., penlight type battery cells. Holcomb fails to disclose or suggest use of a penlight, much less a key chain rechargeable device that is distinct from a key inserted in a key securing structure and that is inductively recharged, with the key chain rechargeable device being a penlight, as recited by claim 11.

Neither Suyama nor Holcomb, either alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest a key chain rechargeable device that is distinct from a

key inserted in a key securing structure and that is inductively recharged, much less with the key chain rechargeable device being a penlight, as recited by claim 11.

Accordingly, for at least all the above reasons, claim 11 is patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-7, 9, 10, 15, 18, 19 and 22 over Loeffler

In the Office Action, claims 1-7, 9, 10, 15, 18, 19 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Loeffler et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,838,074 ("Loeffler"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 1-7, 9, 10 and 15 recite a key chain rechargeable device that is adapted to be inductively recharged from an external power source when a key associated with a key securing structure is inserted in a lock device. Claim 18 recites an inductive charging coil placed proximate to a vehicle ignition assembly adapted to provide battery charging power to a key chain rechargeable device. Claims 19 and 22 recite inductive coupling a rechargeable battery of a key chain electronic device to an external power source associated with a lock device when a key is in the lock device.

Loeffler appears to disclose an anti-theft system for a motor vehicle that includes a transceiver disposed in a motor vehicle and a portable transponder (Abstract). The rechargeable battery is within an ignition key that is charged and detected for anti-theft purposes (Loeffler, col. 3, lines 7-15; col. 2, lines 46-61).

Loeffler discloses a method and apparatus for preventing theft of an automobile by utilizing a specialized key. A battery within the key is charged to facilitate the specialized key in transmitting a security code to the automobile. Thus, Loeffler discloses a key that is inductively charged **NOT** a key chain rechargeable device and key chain electronic device that are respectively distinct

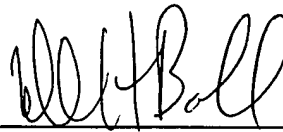
from a key inserted in a key securing structure and a key inserted in a lock device, as recited by claims 1-7, 9, 10, 15, 18, 19 and 22.

Accordingly, for at least all the above reasons, claims 1-7, 9, 10, 15, 18, 19 and 22 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W H Bollman', written over a horizontal line.

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